

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle optical ring network, comprising:

an optical data line configured in a ring network;

~~a playback transducer connected to the optical data line;~~

at least one data source connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink connected to the optical data line and comprising a playback transducer, and that receives the compressed data from the optical data line ~~and provides received compressed data indicative thereof~~, where the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed data and provide a decompressed data signal indicative thereof to the playback transducer ~~via the optical data line~~;

where the at least one data sink also includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed data, where the format of the received compressed

data may be one of a plurality of compression formats.

7. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 6, where the bit stream decoder decompresses video data.

8. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where the bit stream decoder decompresses audio data.

9. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 8, where the playback transducer includes at least one loudspeaker.

10. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where the playback transducer includes a video display.

11. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 7, where the bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder, a JPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder.

12. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 8, where the at least one data source includes a radio tuner.

13. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 12, further comprising a second data source that includes a DVD player connected to the optical data line and provides compressed data onto the optical data line.

14. (Previously Presented) The motor vehicle optical ring network of claim 13, where the bit stream decoder is selectively configured as one of an MPEG decoder and an AC-3 decoder in response to control signal data received by the bit stream decoder over the optical data line.

15. (Currently Amended) An optical ring network for a motor vehicle multimedia system, comprising:

an optical data line configured as a ring network;

~~at least one playback transducer connected to the optical data line;~~

a first data source that is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed audio data onto the optical data line;

a second data source that is connected to the optical data line, and provides compressed video data onto the optical data line; and

at least one data sink that includes a playback transducer and is connected to the optical data line, and that receives the compressed video data and the compressed audio data from the optical data line and ~~provides corresponding received compressed video data and compressed audio data indicative thereof~~, where the at least one data sink includes a first bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed video data and provide a decompressed video data signal indicative thereof for display by the ~~at least one~~ playback transducer, and where the at least one data sink includes a second bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed audio data and to provide a decompressed audio signal indicative thereof for playback by the at least one playback transducer, and where the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed video data to a format of the received compressed video data, where the

format of the received compressed video data includes one of a plurality of compression formats.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 15, where the second bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and AC-3 data.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 16, where the first bit stream decoder decodes MPEG and JPEG data.

18. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 17, where the first data source includes a radio tuner.

19. (Previously Presented) The optical ring network of claim 18, where the second data source includes a digital video disc (DVD) player.

20. (Previously Presented) A motor vehicle network, comprising:

a ring network;

~~a playback transducer connected to the ring network;~~

at least one data source connected within the ring network, and provides compressed data within the ring network; and

at least one data sink comprising a playback transducer and connected within the ring network, and that receives the compressed data from within the ring network, where the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed data and provide corresponding decompressed data to the playback transducer via the ring network;

where the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed data.